

Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing, 2011, May, vol.7, n.5, pp. 509-523,
ISSN1548-6583

CLUSTERS, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Paulo NETO¹ & Maria Manuel SERRANO²

(neto@uevora.pt)

(mariaserrano@uevora.pt)

Abstract

One of the most important aspects of current economical and social reality of each local and regional territory, and very much determinative for its economic development potential, is the nature of its territorial organization of the productive processes, as well as, the characteristics, and sophistication level, of the enterprise strategies that are functioning in it. This paper seeks to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the role of clusters as engines of economic and social development and sustainability of local and regional territories. Based on a study research methodology, we intend to answer to the following research questions: (1) What is the importance of clusters in the increment process of the local and regional conditions of governance and sustainability? (2) How specific models of clusters' governance can contribute to greater territorial setting of enterprises and to increasing the sustainability of its development strategies? (3) To what extent industrial public policies can increase the sustainability of development solutions for local and regional economies?

Keywords: collective efficiency strategies, regional development, clusters sustainability, territorial competitiveness

¹ University of Évora, Department of Economics and CEFAGE-Center for Advanced Studies in Management and Economics of the University of Évora, Portugal, neto@uevora.pt .

² University of Évora, Department of Sociology and SOCIUS – Research Center in Economics and Organizational Sociology of the Institute of Economics and Business Administration, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, mariaserrano@uevora.pt .